

Application No.: 09/933,316

Docket No.: 29985/01-185

REMARKS

Upon entrance of the present amendment, claims 1, 3-5, 9-11, and 15-41 will be pending. Applicant respectfully requests that claims 29-37 be rejoined in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 821.04. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the interview of June 9, 2004 regarding revocation of a previous final action.

I. EXPLANATION OF AMENDMENTS

The amendment to the claims introduces no new matter, and finds support throughout the specification as filed. Amended claims 1 and 2 find support in claims 1, 2, and 8 and in the specification at page 11, lines 15-30, and page 16, lines 1-4, 23-24 and 28-31, and page 20, line 11, to page 21, line 10. Claims 2, 7, and 8 have been canceled in view of the amendment to claim 1. Claims 3, 23, 24, 29 and 34 have been amended in view of the amendment to claim 1; claims 29 and 34 amended so as to allow rejoinder under M.P.E.P. § 821.04. Claims 39 and 40 have been amended to emphasize that the particular material is greater than 0% by volume of the solid-aggregate materials. Further discussion of the amended claims is provided herein.

II. THE CITED REFERENCES DO NOT SUPPLEMENT THE DEFICIENCIES IN KRALL '287. ACCORDINGLY, THE CLAIMS ARE PATENTABLE AND NONOBVIOUS

In paragraphs 3-14 of the Office Action, the Office rejected claims as allegedly unpatentable over WO 00/44287 ("Krall '287") in view of various references under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The Applicant respectfully traverses, because the Office has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for the claims as presently amended.

Specifically, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art references (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure." M.P.E.P. §§ 2142, 2143. As shown below, Applicant respectfully submits that the Patent Office has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness for amended claim 1.

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A. Evans '361 Cannot Be Combined With Krall '287 To Render The Claims Obvious

In paragraphs 4-10 of the Office Action, the Office rejected claims 1-5, 7-11, 15-21, and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over '287 in view of "Evans," U.S. Pat. No. 5,702,361.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a polymeric non-cyanoacrylate rheology modifying agent having an average molecular weight greater than 200,000. Neither '287 nor '361 disclose a non-cyanoacrylate rheology modifying agent comprising a polymeric compound having an average molecular weight greater than 200,000. Evans discloses cellulose diacetate compositions having an average molecular weight up to, but not equal to or greater than 200,000. (Evans, col. 5, lines 48-51.) As admitted by the Office in the previous action (at page 7), Krall '287 fails to teach the use of polymeric non-cyanoacrylate rheology modifying agents. Therefore, this rejection does not meet the criteria of § 2143 and has been rendered moot in view of the amendment to claim 1 as described above.

B. U.S. Pat. No. 5,447,710 Cannot Be Combined With Krall '287 To Render The Claims Obvious

In paragraphs 11-13 of the Office Action, the Office rejected claims 1-3, 9-11, and 15-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over '287 in view of "Na," U.S. Pat. No. 5,447,710.

Na also fails to teach or suggest a polymeric non-cyanoacrylate modifying agent comprising a polymeric compound having an average molecular weight greater than 200,000. While Na does disclose certain surfactants with molecular weights in excess of 4000, such surfactants are provided for absorption to a X-ray contrast agent and not as polymeric non-cyanoacrylate rheology modifying agents. Therefore, this rejection has also been rendered moot in view of the amendment to claim 1 as described above.

C. Krall '366 Cannot Be Combined With Krall '287 To Render The Claims Obvious

In paragraph 14 of the Office Action, the Office rejected claims 1-3, 9-10, 15-21, and 23-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over '287 in view of "Krall '366," U.S. Pat. No. 6,037,366.

Krall '366 also fails to teach or suggest a non-cyanoacrylate modifying agent comprising a polymeric compound having an average molecular weight greater than 200,000.

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Therefore, this rejection has been rendered moot in view of the amendment to claim 1 as described above.

Accordingly, the rejections under § 103(a) have been rendered moot or remain improper for failure of the Office to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. The rejections should be withdrawn.

III. THE OBJECTIONS TO CLAIMS 39 AND 40 HAVE BEEN RENDERED MOOT

The Office objected to claim 39 and 40 because they allegedly did not require the existence of inorganic particulate material. That objection has been rendered moot in view of the amendment of these claims to specify the presence of such material in amounts greater than 0% by volume of the solid-aggregate materials. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

IV. HECHENBERGER FAILS TO ANTICIPATE THE CLAIMS

In paragraph 15, the Office rejected claims 1, 3-5, 7-11, 15-16, 19, 26-27, 30, and 38-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by "Hechenberger," (U.S. Patent No. 4,997,861). Applicant respectfully traverses. To anticipate, a reference must disclose every element of a claim. Applicant's claim 1 recites a composition comprising a plasticizer and a radiopacifier. Hechenberger fails to teach a composition comprising a plasticizer, and also fails to teach a composition comprising a radiopacifier. Accordingly, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3-5, 9-11, and 15-41 are in condition for allowance. The Office is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below in order to discuss any remaining issues or matters of form that will move this case to allowance.

While no fees are believed due, the amendment transmittal letter attached herewith permits the Director to charge any additional, necessary fees.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



Kurt T. Buechle
Reg. No. 54,011
MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP
6300 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357
Tel.: (312) 474-6300
Fax: (312) 474-0448

Dated: August 13, 2004

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER				Docket No. 29985/01-185	
Application No. 09/933,316-Conf. #7064		Filing Date August 20, 2001		Examiner S.J. Sharareh	
				Art Unit 1617	

Applicant(s): Stephen Porter

Invention: Embolic Compositions with Non-Cyanoacrylate Rheology Modifying Agents

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.
The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.

CLAIMS AS AMENDED					
	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest Number Previously Paid	Number Extra Claims Present	Rate	
Total Claims	34	- 41 =	0	x	0.00
Independent Claims	3	- 3 =	0	x 0	0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					
Other fee (please specify):					0.00
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT:					0.00

☒ Large Entity
 ☐ Small Entity

☒ No additional fee is required for this amendment.

☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____.
 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

☐ A check in the amount of \$ _____ x _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.

☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 13-2855
 as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

☒ Credit any overpayment.

☒ Charge any additional filing or application processing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17.

Kurt T. Buechle
 Kurt T. Buechle
 Attorney Reg. No.: 54,011

Dated: August 13, 2004

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP
 233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 6300
 Sears Tower
 Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357
 (312) 474-6300

I hereby certify that this paper and the papers referenced herein are being facsimile transmitted on August 13, 2004, to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Facsimile No. (703) 872-9306.	
Dated: August 13, 2004	Signature: <u>Kurt T. Buechle</u> (Kurt T. Buechle)